

Secondhand Smoke

A Health Hazard to Children

American
Academy of
Pediatrics



Environmental
Protection
Agency



Secondhand Smoke

- 38 percent of children aged 2 months to 5 years are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home



Secondhand Smoke

- Up to 2,000,000 ear infections each year
- Nearly 530,000 doctor visits for asthma
- Up to 436,000 episodes of bronchitis in children under five
- Up to 190,000 cases of pneumonia in children under five

Secondhand Smoke

- Also known as environmental tobacco smoke (ETS)
- Smoke breathed out by a smoker
- Smoke from the burning end of cigarettes, cigars, pipes
- Composed of nearly 4,000 different chemicals and chemical compounds
- Benzene, nickel, carbon monoxide, ammonia and cyanide

Secondhand Smoke

- Miscarriage
- Prematurity
- Low birth weight



Secondhand Smoke

- More upper respiratory infections
- More bronchitis and pneumonia
- More ear infections and hearing problems
- Higher rate of SIDS
- More cases of asthma
- More severe symptoms in children who already have asthma



Secondhand Smoke

- Coughing and wheezing
- Sore throats and colds
- Eye irritation
- Hoarseness



Secondhand Smoke

- Infants whose mothers smoked were 38 percent more likely to be admitted to the hospital for bronchitis and pneumonia



Secondhand Smoke

- Children younger than one year whose mothers smoked were almost four times as likely to be hospitalized



Secondhand Smoke

- Infants with two parents who smoke were more than twice as likely to have had pneumonia and bronchitis



Secondhand Smoke

- Children living in households where more than three packs of cigarettes were smoked per day were more than four times as likely to be hospitalized for placement of ear tubes



Asthma

- One out of thirteen children has asthma
- Asthma is a chronic disease of the passageways that carry air to the lungs
- Asthma causes labored breathing, shortness of breath



Indoor Asthma Triggers

- Secondhand smoke
- Animal dander
- Dust mites
- Cockroaches
- Mold



Pledge to keep a Smoke-Free Home

- The best thing you can do is quit
- Until you quit:
 - Choose not to smoke in your home or allow others to do so
 - Choose not to smoke in your car or allow others to do so
 - Choose a smoke-free child care provider



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A Health Hazard to Children

- EPA's Secondhand Smoke Website – www.epa.gov/smokefree
- American Academy of Pediatrics Website – www.aap.org
- To take the Smoke-Free Home Pledge call 1-866-SMOKEFREE
- EPA's Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse 1-800-438-4318